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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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October 20, 1977

Executive Registry

77-2484/3

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGYSUBJECT: FY 1978 Underground Nuclear Test Program
(CRESSET)

The President has approved the underground nuclear test program for the first half of FY 1978 (CRESSET I), consistent with the FY 1978 DOD and DOE budget levels, and subject to the following limitations:

-- Approval of the BACKSTAY and KNIGHTHEAD tests is held in abeyance pending DOD submission and interagency review of a study of the military utility and arms control implications of insertable nuclear components.

-- Implementation must be in accordance with existing policy regarding testing near the 150 kt limit of the TTBT.

The above approval is conditional upon the outcome of the CTB negotiations; the United States must be prepared to cease testing if agreement on a CTB Treaty is reached.

Specific approval of the test program for the second half of FY 1978 (CRESSET II) should be requested by March 1978. The total number of tests to be conducted during FY 1978 is not to exceed 25.

DOS and NSC review(s)
completed.

DOE review
completed.

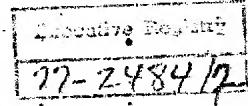


Zbigniew Brzezinski

cc: The Secretary of State
The Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

October 11, 1977 NSC

5 Oct 77

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: ACDA Comments on FY 1978 Underground
Test Program

In response to the NSC memorandum of September 29, we have reviewed the proposed FY 1978 underground test program (CRESSET) forwarded by ERDA's September 16 letter to the President.

The ERDA letter and attachments adequately describe the proposed tests and their relationship to particular weapon systems or other objectives. There is a need, however, to clarify the number of tests that the President is being asked to authorize. The proposed program would involve 32 tests (33 devices), but the funding for FY 1978 will provide for executing only about 25 tests.

ACDA can concur in an FY 1978 program of 25 tests, which is roughly the number conducted in FY 1976 and FY 1977. In view of the TTBT obligation to limit the number of underground tests "to a minimum", ACDA would not favor an expansion beyond 25 tests unless there were compelling reasons to do so. I recommend, therefore, that the President's authorization of CRESSET state explicitly that separate approval would be required if it is proposed that more than 25 tests actually be conducted during FY 1978.

In considering which of the 33 devices should be given priority, ACDA believes that in CRESSET emphasis should be given to completing development of warheads which are at an advanced stage of development and which fill a priority requirement. Lower priority should be given to embarking at this time on new lines of development which would require two or three years of testing to complete development. In a few months we should be in a much better position to judge the prospects of concluding a CTBT during

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FY 1978, and the new lines of development could be examined at that time. This point, incidentally, illustrates the value of continuing to review the test program at six-month intervals as ACDA has recommended.

Spurgeon M. Keeny, Jr.

Spurgeon M. Keeny, Jr.
Acting

cc: Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Acting Director, Office of
Management and Budget
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director of Central Intelligence

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary

Previous correspondence on subject sent to
D/NFAC for action

77-2484

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